The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Understanding the disease is the first step to the cure.—Anon.

WHOLE NO. 1012. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 25.

NEW PROBLEMS FOR LABOR'S HOLIDAY

Labor Day, this year, presents new industrial problems that affect not only wage workers but every group of citizens.

The automatic machine and scientific processes are revolutionizing industry.

This movement is in advance of our present-day thought and our ethical standards.

Citizens cling to the theory of "independent workmen" in an age of mergers, mass output, chemistry, the radio and labor-displacing machinery that creates surplus commodities, closes factories and extends unemployment.

This unemployment is increased by the mechanization of farms and the drifting of released agricultural workers to industrial centers.

Old ideas and concepts must be abandoned if citizens are to even approximate a solution for problems that become more complex as inventors and scientists naturally enlarge their field of operation.

It is no answer to say, in discussing this question, that "we can't stop progress."

We refuse to cease presenting facts lest we be charged with opposing the machine.

We leave that policy to those who formerly opposed trade unionism and who now insist chain stores can be smashed by legal enactment.

No trade unionist believes inventive ingenuity can be checked or that the human mind can be limited.

Trade unionists declare that the machine must not control man. It should be a means for a higher life rather than profit for the few and hunger for others.

Organized labor insists that hours must be reduced and that the purchasing power of workers must be increased.

Wealth should be more equitably diffused and workers can accomplish this by using their economic power through trade unions.

Our unions must be developed to higher standards of intelligence, aggressiveness and numerical strength.

That wealth is alert to the possibilities of trade unionism is shown in the resistance to this movement through the South.

This, of course, applies to other sections, but the South has been in the public eye the past year. This opposition should awaken workers to their power through unity.

Labor Day, 1930, is a milestone in the new industrial revolution. We are confronted with numerous and pressing problems, but we are aware of these problems and have remedies for same.

We have no illusions. We will only get what we take through intelligent action and appeals to the enlightened self-interest of citizens in other groups who must be shown that concentrated wealth and armies of unemployed have no place in a country with the American objective and the American background.

Trade Unionists Are "Framed" When They Resist Dying Wage

Washington, Aug. 30.—"The North Carolina Supreme Court's sustainment of the conviction of Alfred Hoffman, United Textile Workers' organizer, and the methods used in his trial, should be connected with the increase of pellagra in that State," said Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L.

McGrady was kidnaped with Hoffman by an Elizabethton mob of so-called respectable citizens, who have not been punished for their crime.

"The growth of pellagra in North Carolina is proof that low wages exist," said McGrady. "The United States Public Health Service has shown that 20,000 cases of this disease, caused by undernourishment, exist in that State, and that 1,500 of the victims will prematurely die."

"Pellagra is the result of a dying wage," continued the trade unionist. "Hoffman was not in Marion when the deputies said they were assaulted. Hoffman and three associates were not arrested until after deputies killed six strikers by shooting them in the back. It was then that Hoffman was arrested and his trial and the prosecution's methods switched the popular mind from the murder of strikers.

"Trade unionism is a challenge to the dying wage that anti-union employers would continue in North Carolina. If workers have a wage that will permit them to buy proper food they will not be stricken with pellagra and 1,500 of them will not fill premature graves. To continue this system, murderous deputies are permitted to kill and trade unionists are sentenced to the road chain gang, when they urge workers to prolong their lives.

FORCE CAN'T SILENCE PROTEST

The Louisiana Manufacturers' Association calls on all members to "discharge agitators and avoid trouble."

This ancient system of creating trouble by ignoring causes will fail.

Force can but temporarily silence protest against injustice.

There is a reason why workers join trade unions and unions will exist as long as that cause exists.

Humanitarians, social engineers and welfare experts may join employers in ignoring the cause. Public officials, the judiciary and other agents of these employers may "frame" the protestor and employers may discharge every one who refuses to bow to their will.

But the reason for trade unionism remains. It can not be permanently concealed by employers who have the serf outlook or by their political and intellectual lackeys.

In every age there have been Dame Partingtons who would sweep the ocean back with a broom.

PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYED

The experience of the municipal free employment agency serves to reveal in a dramic setting the seriousness of the problem of unemployment. Daily thousands of desperate job seekers have besieged the office. Daily the city has been able to find work, often only of a temporary nature, for about one in twenty of the applicants. An increase in the working force of the office is demanded. Whether that will aid in increasing the number employed remains to be seen.

It is cold comfort to a hungry and workless man to be told that the conditions against which he is struggling are widespread among the nations. Even New Zealand, which has boasted the abolition of poverty by an advanced social code, has been obliged to pass an emergency law establishing the dole. In the homeland of Great Britain two millions are out of work and the present taxation yield is insufficient to provide for the increasing cost of their support.

Our Congress and our Legislatures, however, can learn something from experience elsewhere. Individualism, the old American idea that each able-bodied person must look after himself, is on trial in this matter of unemployment. If by methods consistent with individualism, methods which are being energetically tried, the problem is not solved we shall be brought face to face with the necessity of resorting to methods of collectivism, and that means the dole. The community will not, it cannot, condemn armies of working people to unrelieved starvation.—New York World.

MACHINE EFFECT ON SOCIAL LIFE FRANKLY DISCUSSED BY CLERICS

New York, Aug. 30.—"The machine has created wealth, but it has given no answer to the problem of this wealth's distribution," says the Commission on the Church and Social Service, in its Labor Sunday message.

The commission is a unit of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ. These clergymen declare that machine wealth flows in under proportion into the hands of those who own the machine.

The clergymen also declare that society is mistaken in its belief that the machine would benefit equitably all portions of society.

"It is still an open question," the statement continues, "whether our generation will develop the moral sensitivity and the social insight to operate the system we have created so that it will bless and not curse us.

"Our industrial civilization has developed with tremendous rapidity. Our modes of thought and our ethical ideas have not kept pace. Religion today faces no more fundamental problem than that of competing its faith and life, its ideals and its ethical principles in terms relevant to a society dominated by the machine.

"No more serious charge can be made against our generation than that it has been content so blind and morally so callous that it has been unwilling to divert sufficient profits of modern industry to provide adequately for the support of the unemployed and the security of the aged.

"It has insisted on the rights of property to dividends but has concerned itself too little with the rights of workers to security of employment and to protection in old age. As a result millions who have a just claim upon industry have been forced to accept the bread of charity and multitudes have been thrown as public charges upon the resources of municipalities and states."

STRIKE IS ORDERED TO STOP WAGE CUT

New York, Aug. 30.—Raincoat makers declared a strike in this city to prevent wage cuts of 20 per cent. These workers are affiliated to International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

"It is either a strike or a wage reduction, and we will resist the latter with every power at our command, said Benjamin Schlesinger, president of the International.

Workers in the children's dress department of this industry also suspended work to establish a minimum wage scale and abolish sweatshop conditions.

"Responsibility for these strikes can be placed on employers," said President Schlesinger. "We exhausted efforts to mediate effectively, but low wages and sweatshop conditions is the goal of these employers. They will not join with employers in other branches of our industry to remedy these evils, and they have arranged with private detective agencies to "protect their property." This means that the thugs are hired to assault our pickets, as is usual in these cases."

TEXTILE WORKERS OUT; ARE NOT ORGANIZED

Bessemer City, N. C., Aug. 30.—The cry that "union agitators cause strikes in the South," can not be used by the management of the American Cotton Mills at this place.

Wages were cut from 5 to 20 per cent the unorganized employes walked out. The management offered to restore the old rates for three weeks, when the cut would be effective. The strikers demand wage increases and a reduction in the rent of company houses. They also ask that the mill superintendent be discharged, as he is blamed for the trouble.

INTERNAL REVENUE $101,091,357 MORE

Washington, Aug. 30.—Unemployment is general throughout the land, but this does not affect higher incomes, according to a preliminary report by the Commission of Internal Revenue.

The report shows an increase for the fiscal year 1930 in total collections of $101,091,357 more than the previous year. The larger amount of the increase came from incomes.

IDLE A CHALLENGE, SAYS N. Y. CLERIC

New York, Aug. 30.—"Idleness and its long train of evils is a challenge to churches," said Dr. John McDowell, secretary Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, in his annual Labor Sunday message.

"Churches should never forget," he said, "that living on the verge of poverty, with regularity and uncertainty of employment, is not conducive to the best of physical, mental or moral life.

"Grinding anxiety about the mere means of existence shuts out concern for spiritual life. For their own sakes, therefore, as well as for the sake of the unemployed and their families, the churches ought to take a deep and practical interest in solving the problem of greater security and satisfaction in work."

APPEAL OF RULING ON FULL-CREW ACT

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 30.—The Brotherhoods of Locomotive Firemen and Railroad Trainmen jointly appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court against a ruling by the Public Utilities Commission that the State full-crew law does not apply to gas-propelled motor trains.

The Commission first held that the railroad in question could operate motor trains with a full crew, but reversed its decision on a rehearing.

"WE'LL CONTROL LABOR'S THINKING," SAY SOUTHERN TEXTILE EMPLOYERS

Greensboro, N. C., Aug. 30.—Employes of the Cone Cotton Mills here were notified that if they read trade union literature or the Raleigh News and Observer they will be discharged.

The News and Observer is a daily paper, of progressive tendencies, published by Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy under President Wilson.

Workers were also warned to shun trade union meetings, and that the company's paper, the Textorian, printed weekly, should satisfy them.

Publicity against the company's action stung Bernard M. Cone, who made the stereotyped plea that he does not oppose trade unions. "Dirty pack of lies that the union organizers have been issuing since this campaign if it may be called that—began here," shrieked the excited Mr. Cone.

Charles M. Gaskill, A. F. of L. organizer, replied: "We would like to have Mr. Cone explain, not to us but to the public, why 70 workers and their families were discharged for attending union meetings, and why eight workers were ejected and thrown into the streets."

The trade unionist asked why foremen and overseers are stationed at the union's headquarters, and why these petty bosses are so regular in attendance at union mass meetings.

One of the discharged workers, O. L. Osment, was earning $8.98 a week on a curtailed time basis. His wage on a 54-hour schedule was $16.46. "This is the first time in my 28 years of married life that my wife has had to work and help me make a living," said Osment. He said he, his wife and sons attended every union meeting held in the "tater patch," and that "I don't ask no mister man what paper I can read. I don't take no cussed old Textorian, not if they give it to me."

U. S. MAIL SERVICE IS FINEST IN WORLD

Washington, Aug. 30.—"No other nation gives to its citizens a mail service comparable to that of the United States," declares the Post Office Department.

"The citizens of no other country can communicate with each other or with the outside world at so small a cost as they can in this country," it was stated.

"No other country even remotely approaches the United States in the amount of mail handled.

"The United States postal system handles one-third of the world's mail, equalling in number all the pieces handled by Great Britain, France and Russia combined."

The Department called attention to the freedom from mail censorship in this country, as compared with the propensity of other countries for "cracking seals."

ARE COURTS "REACHED?"

Chicago, Aug. 30.—Chief Justice Hughes of the United State Supreme Court said, in an address to the American Bar Association here:

"Our government is one of laws through men and most of our problems in the administration of criminal law could be solved by the selection of competent men free from the corrupting influence of fear and favor."

WANT ORGANIZER

Charlotte, N. C., Aug. 30.—Trade unionists in this city asked the A. F. of L. Southern organizing committee to assign a full-time organizer to this city.

UNEMPLOYMENT DROP FRACTIONALLY SMALL

Washington, Aug. 30.—Trade union unemployment during August dropped but three-tenths of one per cent, according to the monthly business review of the A. F. of L.

The figures indicate that 22 per cent of nearly 800,000 reporting members were idle.

Building unemployment of 39 per cent showed a decrease of eight-tenths of one per cent. This, the bulletin states, is not enough to show in the published figures. Metal trades unemployment dropped from 21 to 19 per cent. The printing trades had an 8 per cent unemployment, as compared with 7 per cent last month. This is double the number of unemployed last August.

The bulletin states that the general unemployment decrease, though small, indicates that a turn for the better probably took place the first of August.

"The reduction of workers' buying power, caused by this high unemployment, is one of the chief causes of the continued low level of business. Coming as it does after a winter and spring of unusual unemployment, workers' resources for purchasing are seriously lowered.

"Add to the social consequences of unemployment to its economic effects and it is clear that the present situation is serious. The effects of undernourishment and privation on the young children whose parents have been out of work long after this depression is over. The present unemployment crisis is a challenge to industrial leadership."

PRODUCTION DROP REACHES LOW LEVEL

New York, Aug. 30.—Industrial production, corrected for seasonal variation, attained a lower level in July, 1930, than in any month since August, 1924, according to figures by the Standard Statistics Company.

Compared with July, last year, the decline amounted to 27 per cent, or by far the most severe recession, in comparison to the year ago, recorded for any month this year.

Pronounced declines, as compared with July, 1929, occurred this July in practically all of the more important industrial lines. Iron output led with a 51.2 per cent curtailment. Other recessions were: automobiles, 49.3 per cent; steel, 37.9 per cent; cotton, 30.7 per cent; zinc, 25.8 per cent, and bituminous coal, 14.2 per cent.

Business men accept these figures but insist that the tide has turned.

BETHLEHEM BONUS MAY BE REVISED

Youngstown, Ohio, Aug. 30.—The Bethlehem Steel Corporation's policy of huge secret bonuses to executives may be abandoned.

A legal war between stockholders over the proposed merger with Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company revealed that bonuses, last year, totaled $3,200,000, of which Eugene Grace, president, received $1,600,000. This group of executives have secretly paid approximately $36,000,000 between 1911-1929. Stockholders who own the property, were not informed of this policy by the board of directors they elect to run the concern.

While Grace and his fellow insiders were receiving these vast sums, the Bethlehem president was leading a fight against wage increases awarded to his machinists by the War Labor Board during the World War.

He insisted that his company would "lose money" on government contracts that were based on the old rates. The War Labor Board, however, raised rates, and the company practically said, "Now let us see them collect."

After years of agitation by organized machinists, Congress voted several hundred thousand dollars to meet the difference between the old rate and the increase. Many machinists who left Bethlehem have not, and probably never will, receive the increase because their addresses are unknown.

TAXES DOESN'T HARM NEW YORK BUSINESS

Silver Bay, N. Y., Aug. 30.—Taxes do not drive business out of this State said Mark Graves, State tax commissioner, before the Industrial Leadership Institute here.

Taxable real estate, he said, more than doubled in ten years; population increased five points above the national average; people in gainful occupations increased 500,000 in ten years; during the same period yearly wages of factory workers increased $300,000,000 and the value added by manufacture to New York products $1,340,000,000 greater in 1927 than in 1921.

LABOR IS IGNORED IN SOUTHERN SURVEY

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 30.—Governor Bilbo ignored labor when he appointed a committee of 21 to survey industrial and labor conditions in Mississippi.

The probe will be conducted by bankers, merchants and manufacturers. The State appropriated $150,000 and an equal amount was raised by private subscriptions.

Holt Ross, president Mississippi Federation of Labor, has protested against ignoring workers on this commission.

NO NATIONAL GROUP IS LESS LAW ABIDING

Chicago, Aug. 30.—George W. Wickersham, former Attorney General and chairman of President Hoover's National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, does not believe foreign-born persons are more criminally inclined than American born.

In an address to the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, Mr. Wickersham said that a study of available statistics indicates that as a whole no greater percentage of foreign birth than by the native born. He added, however, that the native children of foreign-born parentage apparently contribute more largely to the number of offenders.

Addressing himself to the reasons for the "lawless attitude of the American public," Mr. Wickersham said: "It must be confessed that the general attitude of mind of the average American is not law-abiding."

The speaker said there is nothing less reasonable to suppose than that the American people will obey all statutes merely because the legislature enacted them.

TAX CUT HOLDS

Washington, Aug. 30.—Statements from the White House indicate that a continuation of the emergency reductions on incomes, passed by the last Congress, is favored.

2,508,151 Idle Reported By Census; Other Out-of-Works Counted Later

Washington, Aug. 30.—There were 2,508,151 persons without a job, able to work and looking for it, at the time the census was taken last April, according to a statement by the Census Bureau.

These figures do not include persons who have been laid off or persons out of a job and unable to work. The present figures are made public, it is stated, because they represent the only basis on which all industrial groups reported on the unemployment schedule and partly because the reports were on the schedule in such form that the count could be easily and quickly made.

The figures to be announced later will increase the unemployed numbers as they will include, for instance, the mining industry in which miners report they still have a job, although they may not have worked for months.

The Director of the Census says the 2,508,151 persons without a job constitute 2 per cent of the country's population. The percentage is not based on the number of gainful workers in the country because these figures have not been compiled.

The director estimates that the number of gainful workers is probably not far from 40 per cent of the total population. This includes persons in every imaginable activity and makes no distinction, for instance, between the scientist and so-called common laborer.

The Census Bureau will be aided in interpreting the various unemployment schedules by a committee appointed by President Hoover, and which includes John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, and Arthur O. Wharton, president International Association of Machinists.

The census figures were compiled by 100,000 enumerators, gathered from their various communities. Practically none of them had previous experience in the collecting and interpreting of statistics.

PRESIDENT GREEN TELLS WORKERS INJUNCTION RELIEF IS MAJOR ISSUE

Washington, Aug. 30.—Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., asks officials of State Federations of Labor to question Congressional candidates on their labor-injunction stand.

"Every candidate for the Senate and House of Representatives," said President Green, should be asked:

"Will you support the injunction bill introduced by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and recommended in a minority report of that committee?"

A sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the labor injunction issue for more than two years. A bill that is intended to limit the power of equity judges and make the "yellow dog" illegal was prepared by the sub-committee. It was rejected by the full committee by a vote of 10 to 7.

The minority is Senators Norris, Blaine, Walsh (Mont.), Borah, Caraway, Ashurst and Dill. The bill they favor is the one President Green asks State Federations of Labor to submit to Congressional candidates.

"The expanding use of the injunction in labor controversies should receive the earnest attention of every wage worker," said Mr. Green.

"This is such a serious matter the A. F. of L. decided to question every candidate for the United States Senate and House of Representatives as to his or her attitude toward anti-injunction legislation.

"There is no other question facing labor of such grave concern. The anti-injunction bill which we are supporting makes 'yellow dog' contracts illegal.

"Our activities should be centralized in a supreme effort to secure the enactment of anti-injunction legislation."

Middle Aged Workers Dismissed; Ratio Is 40 Per Cent In Far West

San Francisco, Aug. 30.—"The age limit in industry is serious and the problem of relegating middle-aged workers to the scrap heap must be solved," said Will J. French, director State Department of Industrial Relations.

This State unit made a study of maximum age limits in California and reached the conclusion that if managers of industry maintain their present policy there will be a demand for the lowering of age limits to which California old-age pensions apply.

The department's survey shows that out of 2,808 reporting establishments, there were 306, or 11 per cent, that had age limits.

This does not appear startling until it is found the 11 per cent employ 39 per cent of the total employes reported in the 2,808 establishments.

This means that nearly four-tenths, or 40 out of every 100 persons employed with the certainty that they will lose their jobs when they are 40 or 45 years of age.

Public utilities are among the worst offenders in displacing middle-aged workers.

"Group life insurance alone has not been found to influence maximum hiring age limits," said Mr. French. "The tendency towards such age limits is more evident in establishments which have pension plans or both group insurance and pension plans. This tendency is also evident in establishments having physical examinations of applicants for employment.

"Maximum hiring limits have a demoralizing effect not only upon those who are refused employment because of their ages, but also upon workers employed in these establishments."

LABOR LEFT WINGERS ATTACK LABOR PARTY

London, Aug. 30.—The Independent Labor Party, under the leadership of James Maxton, member of Parliament, has launched an attack on Premier MacDonald and the British Labor Party.

The I. L. P. is the left wing of the British Labor Party. Its power in the House of Commons ranges from 10 to 30 votes, according to Maxton's ability to defeat the government. This force is a factor because MacDonald can be ousted from power if the Liberals and Conservatives unite.

The Maxton group propose to make anti-MacDonald speeches throughout the country. They demand that the premier attempt to immediately install national ownership of the banking system, gas and electric power, railroads and land, even at the risk of being defeated in Parliament.

Maxton's followers declare that "the rapidly increasing numbers of the unemployed clearly demonstrate the complete failure of the policies now being pursued to cope with this evil."

The manifesto calls upon the government to concentrate upon absorbing the unemployed into industry by increasing the purchasing power of the workers. A work week of 40 hours is demanded, as is "a living income for all workers," children's allowances, adequate allowances to the unemployed and to aged and widows "and to all others rendered destitute by capitalism."

JOBLESS COMMISSION NAMED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, Aug. 30.—Two trade unionists are included in the President's unemployment statistical commission, it was announced. Recommendations to the Census Bureau on methods to secure a correct list of unemployed through the census, were made.

The commission will act in an advisory capacity. The unionists are: John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department A. F. of L.; Arthur O. Wharton, president International Association of Machinists.

MILK PRICES FIXED

New York, Aug. 30.—Small grocers claim large milk companies in this city prevent them selling milk cheaply, even though it is available and they can do so at a fair profit.

UNIONIST "FRAMED" BY DIXIE EMPLOYERS

Philadelphia, Aug. 30.—"It is an open secret in Marion and throughout North Carolina that cotton mill owners issued orders to judicial and other authorities that Hoffman must be convicted and jailed on some charge," said Wm. Green, secretary-treasurer American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

Alfred Hoffman is organizer United Textile Workers. He defended some workers were accused of rioting, although they were not at the scene of the disturbance. They were found guilty and Hoffman was sentenced to two months on the road chain gang. The State Supreme Court has upheld that sentence.

"I was in Marion when the four men were being tried," said Secretary Smith. "I was frankly told that this (conviction order) was the situation. Other trade unionists who were also watching the trial were given the same information by men who are in a position to speak with knowledge of facts. We were told that we had better accept the inevitable.

"The North Carolina Supreme Court, by its decision in these cases, has ranged itself with manufacturers who are determined to maintain semi-slavery in Marion and other Southern villages.

"The Supreme Court has declared, in effect, that it will help to make the inevitable unionization of Southern mills more difficult and as bitter a process as possible.

"Speaking for our union, I wish to state that the United Textile Workers and its affiliate, Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers' Union, are more determined than ever to aid North Carolina workers to win a decent living standard."

BANKER IN INDUSTRY; NOT PRACTICAL MAN

Youngstown, Ohio, Aug. 30.—Court proceedings on the proposed merger of Bethlehem Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Companies is revealing how bankers who have no knowledge of steel are a factor in this business.

One New York banker testified that his concern bought Youngstown stock to the value of $1,000,000. When asked if he had ever been a practical steel man he answered in the negative. He said he was, for five years, a director of another large steel corporation.

LESS MINE FATALITIES; BUT FEWER MEN EMPLOYED

Washington, Aug. 30.—Fatalities in coal mine accidents dropped to 1,132 for the first six months of the year, according to the United States Bureau of Mines.

This is less than the corresponding period of 1929, but the death rate per 1,000,000 tons of coal mined is higher. There was a reduction in and less men employed in the seven months, but the number of fatal accidents were higher than last year when based on the amount of coal mined.

IDLENESS-POVERTY ARE NATION'S EVILS

Boston, Aug. 30.—Idleness and poverty were classed as national evils by Mayor Curley in an address to the Knights of Columbus annual convention.

"It is time that the intellect of America, the richest nation in the world, applied a solution for these evils," said the mayor.